

CONTROL DEVICE FOR A BALL-HURLING MACHINE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a control device for a ball-hurling machine, particularly to one possible for a hitter to decide the mode of the ball to be hurled out for hitting, with easy handling.

10 2. Description of the Prior Art

A known conventional ball-hurling machine shown in Fig. 1 includes a body 101, a tripod 102 supporting the body 101 able to sway up and down and right and left, a power switch 1011 provided in the body 101, and a ball outlet 1012 formed in a front side
15 of the body 101.

The body 101 may have a number of balls to be shoot out of the ball outlet 1012 or get balls from an exterior device or the like. And a hurling mechanism
20 should be positioned in the body 101, but it is not covered in the present invention, not to be described.

When the power switch 1011 is turned on, a ball is shot speedily out of the ball outlet 1012 by the hurling mechanism for a hitter standing at the home
25 base to hit for training. As the ball-hurling machine is situated a certain distance from a home base 20, the

home base 20 has to be located at an accurate point and aligned to the ball outlet 1012, as shown in Fig. 2. After close research, the inventor has found that a hitter is in no position to control or stop the hurling
5 action of the ball-hurling machine 10, and another person is needed to operate the ball-hurling machine, extremely inconvenient to use for a hitter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention has been devised to offer a
10 control device for a ball-hurling machine possible for a user or hitter to control himself the ball hurling action of the ball-hurling machine.

The feature of the invention is a control plate provided with a transmitter and plural press buttons
15 and to be placed very near to a home base. The transmitter sends out different signals to a receiver provided in the ball-hurling machine. Then a hitter can operate the control plate to let the ball-hurling machine to hurl out balls in various modes, and a
20 display also provided in the ball-hurling machine can show the mode of the ball to be hurled with various colors.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

This invention will be better understood by
25 referring to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional

ball-hurling machine;

Figure 2 is a an upper view of the conventional ball-hurling machine and a home base aligned to it;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a ball-hurling machine with a control device in the present invention;

Figure 4 is an upper view of Fig. 3;

Figure 5 is an upper view of a second embodiment of a control device for a ball-hurling machine in the present invention;

Figure 6 is an upper view of a third embodiment of a control device for a ball-hurling machine in the present invention;

Figure 7 is an upper view of a fourth embodiment of a control device for a ball hurling machine in the present invention; and,

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a fifth embodiment of a control device for a ball-hurling machine in the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A first preferred embodiment of a control device for a ball-hurling machine in the present invention, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, includes a control plate 2 combined with a ball-hurling machine 1.

The ball hurling machine 1 has a body 11 placed

on a tripod 12 and possible to sway up and down and right and left minutely, a ball outlet 111 formed in a front side wall and a ball-hurling mechanism (not covered in the invention). Further, the body 11 has a
5 wireless receiver 13 and a display 14 positioned on the body 11. The wireless receiver 13 controls the power of the ball-hurling machine 11 and the modes of the balls shot out, and the display 14 showing the images of the modes of balls to be hurled with different
10 colors.

The control plate 2 is placed at a pentagonal home base, provided with plural press buttons 21 and a wireless transmitter 22. The press buttons 21 are used for selecting a hurling mode such as single or
15 continual hurling for the ball-hurling machine 11, and the transmitter 22 gives out the signal of the selected hurling mode to the wireless receiver 13 of the ball-hurling machine 11.

Next, how to use the control device 2 for a
20 ball-hurling machine 1 is to be described. A hitter standing at the home base can choose the mode of a ball to be shot out of the ball-hurling machine 11, at first by pressing a proper one of the press buttons 21 to start the power of the control plate 2 and sends out
25 a signal through the transmitter 22 to the receiver 13 of the ball-hurling machine 11 to start its power. After

the receiver 13 receives the signal of the transmitter 22, it commands the display 14 to show the colored image of the signal. Then the hitter knows the ball-hurling machine has been powered and is ready
5 for hurling balls, and optionally presses one of the ball-hurling keys according to his own taste and liking. Then the ball-hurling machine 11 shoots out a single ball, if the mode is selected so, and the transmitter 22 automatically sends out a due signal to the receiver 13
10 of the ball-hurling machine 11, with the display 14 showing a colored image of the signal, and with the hurling mechanism shoots out a ball only once to the home base for the hitter to hit the ball and then stops.

If a player presses the press button for continual
15 hurling, the transmitter 22 automatically gives out the signal to the receiver 13 of the ball-hurling machine 11, which then commands the display 14 to show the due image of the signal with proper colors. Therefore, the player may know that the ball-hurling machine will
20 hurl balls continually, and prepare to hit the balls. So a user of the ball-hurling machine with the control device can easily operate the machine for various trainings.

Furthermore, Fig. 5 shows a second embodiment
25 of a control device for a ball-hurling machine, which is different in that the control plate 2 is connected

with wires 3 with the ball-hurling machine 1, and the wires 3 are buried under the ground, not merely unexposed on the ground to be damaged but can transmit signals from the control plate 2 to the
5 ball-hurling machine 1. So the second embodiment has the same function as the first one.

In addition, Fig. 6 shows a third embodiment of a control device for a ball-hurling machine, which has a control plate shaped square, different from the other
10 embodiments in its shape.

Fig. 7 shows a fourth embodiment of a control device for a ball-hurling machine, which has a control plate shaped circular, different from the other embodiments in its shape.

15 The control plate 2 can be either combined with the home base on the ground or separated from the home base according to a situation.

Moreover, Fig. 8 shows a fifth embodiment of a device plate 2 for a ball-hurling machine 1, which has
20 the device plate 2 hung on a wall behind the home base and facing toward the ball-hurling machine.

Besides, a control plate 2 may be made compact as a remote controller small enough to be held in a hand for a hitter.

25 While the preferred embodiments of the invention have been described above, it will be

recognized and understood that various modifications may be made therein and the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications that may fall within the spirit and scope of the invention.